

National News

Williams appeal denied; Abscam condoned

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York on April 5 denied former New Jersey Senator Harrison Williams's appeal of his Abscam conviction. The Second Circuit has consistently condoned the Carter administration Justice Department's witchhunt against constituency politicians with its rulings.

An arch-liberal panel of Judges Jon Newman, Amalya Kearse, and Henry Friendly (a Louis Brandeis-Felix Frankfurter protégé) heard argument on the appeal late last fall. Judge Newman began his opinion by denying that Williams's refusal to take a bribe, a fact recorded on the FBI's own videotape, would in any way affect the legal issues in his case. Newman writes: "The evidence against Williams . . . differs in significant respects from that presented in previous Abscam trials, but the major legal issues are similar."

Williams, a 23-year veteran of the Senate, was sentenced to three years in prison and a \$50,000 fine on Jan. 16, 1982 by Judge George Pratt in Federal District Court. Reliable sources report that when Pratt was awarded his appointment to the appeals court after convicting Williams, he shared offices with Judge Newman.

The Second Circuit's decision goes beyond its previous denials of Abscam appeals by, in effect, establishing "willingness" as an *ex post facto* law. The opinion reads: "From the totality of the evidence . . . the defendants were 'ready and willing' to commit the crimes charged as soon as the opportunity was first presented," but does not assert that they did commit a crime.

Rohatyn proposal introduced in House

House Banking Committee Chairman Ferdinand St. Germain (D-R.I.) introduced HJR208 on March 17, calling for the United States to pursue certain policies at the May 6 Williamsburg economic summit. The res-

olution mirrors the proposals put forward by Felix Rohatyn for a "Global Big MAC" to recycle Third World debt.

The three "resolved" clauses of the St. Germain resolution are that the United States should propose:

"1) consideration of a multilateral agreement to adopt national fiscal and monetary policies designed to bring about a prompt reduction in worldwide unemployment and interest rates;

"2) inauguration of a plan to extend the maturity of foreign debt owed by developing nations; and

"3) commitment to correcting any lack of uniformity of deficiencies which now exist in the regulation and supervision of international banking."

The resolution was worked out in concert with Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volker, whose reappointment at the end of his term this fall is supported by St. Germain.

Euthanasia attacked at committee hearing

Senate Family and Human Services Subcommittee chairman Jeremiah Denton announced at April 6 hearings that he was introducing legislation to ensure that "infants at risk with life-threatening congenital impairments will be provided with nourishment, medically indicated treatment, and appropriate social services."

The legislation, a part of the bill reauthorizing the Child Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Adoption Reform Act, is a response to the recent Indiana "Baby Doe" case, in which a Downs Syndrome baby was denied life-saving medical treatment and allowed to starve to death because its "quality of life" was not considered worth maintaining.

The mentality of those who would categorize handicapped infants as "useless eaters" was exposed by Dr. David McLone, a Chicago pediatric neurosurgeon, who counterposed the American medical response to babies born with spina bifida (an "open" spine) to that of the British. After surgery performed within 24 hours of birth to close the spinal column, which is done in 85 per-

cent of the diagnosed cases in the United States, 50 percent of affected children are able to walk and 73 percent develop with normal IQs. British doctors, however, only operate on 25 percent of the cases. With technological advances, he and other medical professionals point out, it is now possible to correct the majority of the problems that were diagnosed as mental and physical handicaps in the 1950s.

But another witness, Father John Paris, S.J., who had recently testified that withholding food and water from a comatose adult patient (in the California Clarence Herbert case) was an accepted medical practice, attacked "vitalists" who feel that life must be fought for at all costs. "We bow before the golden calf of life at any cost," Paris stated.

Danton, in his opening statement, pointed out that "allowing the 'less than perfect' among us to die raises the terrifying possibility that more and more groups will be labeled as somehow defective, and allowed to perish. As Dr. Koop [the U.S. Surgeon General] and others have often pointed out, Nazi Germany's Final Solution was the last phase of a 'purification' program that began in the 1930s with the killing of handicapped infants."

Henry Kissinger: 'Reagan a Neanderthal'

Henry Kissinger said President Ronald Reagan represented "Neanderthal Republicanism" on Italian television April 8, because of the President's commitment to the development of space-based beam weapons that could end the era of Kissinger's Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) strategic doctrine.

In an interview on MIXER, a program on the national television station controlled by the Italian Socialist Party, Kissinger asserted that the "star" weapons were "not feasible . . . the only thing are the Euromissiles." Reiterating the statements of former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt on his Kissinger Associates-sponsored tour of the United States, Kissinger declared: "Our allies requested the Euromissiles because they were afraid they would be aban-

done. They opposed submarine-launched nuclear missiles, because they feared the submarines could move away."

"The problem [with the Reagan administration]" Kissinger went on, "is that there are too few pro-European officers there. Reagan represents a Neanderthal Republicanism." Asked why he was not in the administration, Henry resentfully replied, "Because nobody proposed it to me . . . and in any case I would have refused."

To justify his "save the missiles" campaign, Kissinger claimed that the Euromissile deployment would represent no danger to Europe because "the Soviet head of the General Staff declared that the Soviets would answer by hitting only the United States."

House committee ups fusion, NASA budgets

Subcommittees of the House Committee on Science and Technology have added \$100 million to the administration's request for the NASA space programs, and \$33 million for the magnetic fusion program request in actions taken over the past few weeks.

The magnetic fusion increase attempts to salvage key programs, such as the next-step Elmo Bumpy Torus P experiments, to be built near the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which had been slated for elimination by the Reagan administration. Other technology projects, such as studies on advanced compact toroid devices and next-step tokamak designs, have been upgraded.

The House subcommittee action brings the FY84 fusion request up to \$500 million. The needed next-step engineering fusion reactor has still not been approved by the White House, but congressmen are stating their displeasure at the lack of support for fusion engineering from the executive.

The additions to the NASA budget also restore programs, such as technology utilization and space applications, to levels at which some productive technology transfer can go forward. Ten million dollars was added to the crucial space station design work and money was added on to the research and analysis sections of the space science, physics, astronomy, and planetary budgets.

The Space Science and Applications

subcommittee also added \$50 million on to the funds for buying space parts for the Space Shuttle fleet. The congressmen specifically stated in their budget report that this was for "maintaining production readiness for a fifth Shuttle orbiter."

Schmidt and his cronies criticize Reagan's policy

West Germany's former chancellor Helmut Schmidt spoke at Texas A&M University together with former British prime minister and Brandt Commission member Edward Heath, and former U.S. President Gerald Ford, continuing his Kissinger Associates- and Morgan Guaranty Trust-guided tour of the United States and Canada.

The three speakers stressed that President Reagan's anti-nuclear missile defense policy announced on March 23 raises "questions" that must be answered before the country makes a full commitment.

Schmidt cautioned Reagan that "the Soviets may rush to do the same thing, or to do something before the U.S. reaches the stage where they'll be impenetrable to ballistic missiles. . . . Space-age weaponry and negotiations on restricting the deployment of ABM systems comprise a Pandora's box of questions that need to be opened."

The Soviets, Schmidt claimed, have abided by every treaty they have negotiated with the West and, if no new negotiations are begun with the Soviets by the end of 1983 about limiting medium-range missiles, the United States should deploy the Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe.

Space-age weaponry "will be the tools of the military in the next century, but their development and usages still have not been fully discussed by the allies," asserted British Conservative Heath, attempting to reassert the "oldest ally" relationship between Britain and the United States.

Schmidt, who has been using the Palo Alto home of Secretary of State George Shultz as his base during his tour, has called for "U.S. leadership" to avert an "economic depression." Upon his arrival in New York at the beginning of the tour, Schmidt had a private meeting with top executives of Morgan Guaranty.

Briefly

● **VANCE DEVOE BRAND**, an American astronaut who participated in the fifth mission of the space shuttle Columbia, will make a six-day visit to Brazil beginning April 16, *O Estado de São Paulo* reported April 6. Brand will give a talk at São Paulo University's Politechnique School and at the National Institute of Spatial Research. He will also visit the Institute of Spatial Activities of the Aerospace Technical Center in São José dos Campos, São Paulo. He plans to visit Brasília and the northeast city of Natal, where he will visit the rocket launching facilities of Barreira do Inferno. During his December 1982 visit to Brazil, President Reagan welcomed collaboration between American and Brazilian astronauts.

● **RICHARD BURT**, the Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, told a luncheon meeting of the Overseas Writers Club in Washington April 6 that President Reagan's announced Ballistic Missile Defense program did not involve a "new strategic doctrine." Burt, although a former correspondent for the *New York Times*, which has editorially supported Soviet President Yuri Andropov's opposition to Reagan, and a former associate director of London's International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), managed to answer, "Of course" when asked if he felt he could loyally execute any diplomatic tasks necessary to implement the Reagan plan.

● **JOHN HUGHES**, the British-born spokesman for Secretary of State George Shultz, chuckled and answered, "Nobody's asked me to take one" when asked at an early April press briefing if any State Department officials had yet been required to submit to lie detector tests as part of the President's crackdown on unauthorized information leaks in the administration. One veteran correspondent present remarked, "If he passed, Shultz would have to ask him to resign."